

□ 1100

Hillory was an outstanding athlete, well loved and respected by her fellow peers. Hillory was a good young lady and, therefore, did not deserve this tragic death.

Hillory's death is not the first instance of GHB overdose. In Los Angeles, three men were convicted of using GHB to drug and rape several women. The police found photos depicting sex between the men and the unconscious women. At a New Year's Eve party in 1996, 30 to 50 people collapsed after ingesting GHB. All these victims survived.

Parents, have you heard of the so-called rave parties that are taking the country by a rave? These are teenage parties where GHB is used. The GHB formula can be found on your Internet. GHB can be made in bathtubs by bathtub loads to be able to be utilized by large masses of people. To date there have been 19 deaths officially caused by GHB. There are undoubtedly other deaths that may not have been classified as GHB related because the drug is not part of standard toxicology screen. How many parents are not aware of their young people using GHB?

The Drug Enforcement Administration has been working on placing this drug on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act at the Federal level. My bill, H.R. 75, directs the Attorney General to schedule GHB as a Schedule I drug and to establish programs throughout the country to educate young people about the use of controlled substances.

GHB has been used to render victims helpless, to defend against attack, and it even erases memory of the attack, making law enforcement activities very difficult. It is responsible for as many as 60 emergency room admissions in the past 6 months in Houston, Texas alone.

GHB is not legally produced in the United States. It is being smuggled across our borders, or it is being illegally created here. The recipe for this drug can be accessed, as I said earlier, on the Internet.

Scheduling a drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows prosecutors to punish anyone who uses a scheduled drug in any sexual assault crime to suffer penalties on the Drug-Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act.

This is an act that cannot be done by one committee and one group of Members alone. We look forward to working with the Committee on Commerce in this oversight committee, to work with the Food and Drug Administration to encourage it to hurry with its studies and to be collaborative and cooperative, to stop this abuse of this drug.

It is extremely important that we make sure that we schedule this drug as Schedule I to ensure that we stop the abuse, but also the tragic loss of

life. I believe that we must do whatever we can do to stop the abuse of these harmful drugs. We must work with all of the parties who are interested to ensure that this occurs.

I hope that my colleagues will support this legislation and our effort to protect women and others from the violent crime of sexual assault through these drugs, but, as well, to ensure that our young people are safe. Let us strike in a chord of cooperation and bipartisanship and ensure that there is a speedy response to GHB by scheduling it as Schedule I. We call upon both the Department of Justice and the FDA to work with us to move this along as quickly as we can.

On Thursday, I will testify before the Commerce Committee on Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) a date-rape drug. This uncontrolled substance has been used to commit date rape by rendering victims helpless to defend themselves against attack.

The GHB legislation that I am sponsoring, H.R. 75, is the result of a tragedy that took place in Texas involving a young woman named Hillory J. Farias. Hillory was a 17-year-old athlete and model student who died from an overdose of GHB on August 5, 1996.

Hillory and two friends went out to a club on the night she died. While at the club, she only drank soda. Later that evening, she complained of feeling sick and her friends took her home with a severe headache. The next morning, her grandmother found her unconscious and not breathing. Hillory was rushed to the hospital where she died.

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Scheduling a drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows prosecutors to punish anyone who uses a scheduled drug in any sexual assault crime to suffer penalties under the Drug Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act.

I believe we must do whatever we can to stop the abuse of these harmful drugs. I hope my Colleagues will support this legislation and our efforts to protect women and others from the violent crime of sexual assault through these drugs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLILEY). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Help us to discern, gracious God, that Your spirit not only ministers to us in the depths of our hearts and souls, but Your word also encourages us to be filled with that spirit and go into our communities and world and do those good works that honor You, and help people in their need. We pray that Your spirit would bless and forgive us personally, and also give us enthusiasm to share the gifts of justice and mercy with those in great need in our neighborhoods and in our world. In Your name we pray, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY: THE PROGRESS CONTINUES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)